

OPERATIVE G.T.PURDY.

Oct. 29th, 1926

Re: Shots heard the night of Sept. 14th, 1922 and the finding of the bodies Sept. 16th, 1922.

John Lathrop, 27 Elmwood Place, Bloomfield, N.J.

Operative interviewed Mr. Lathrop at his home this evening. He states that on the night of Sept. 14th, 1922 he was at his sister's house near DeRussey's Lane and went to bed early that night, about 9 P.M. He heard no shots at all.

The following morning his sister mentioned that she heard shots the night before. On the morning of Sept. 16th, 1922 he returned from New Brunswick at about 10 A.M. and his attention was attracted to a police officer in De Russey's Lane. He spoke to Schneider who was in a car with a policeman and they told him that two bodies were found murdered and that they were lying in the field near the crab apple tree.

He states that he then went to this crab apple tree and saw the bodies and carefully looked at them. There were a lot of letters strewn between the bodies. He was there about an hour, when two men came along and picked up the letters and read them and laughed. He did not see a card at the Rector's feet. Mrs. Mills hair was soaked with blood and was strewn around her neck. He did not see any cuts on her throat.

Mr. Lathrop states that his brother-in-law, Mr. Edgar Hoag, was deaf and could not have heard the shots. He further stated that Hoag is nearly as deaf as he himself and he does not believe that Hoag heard the shots Sept. 14th, 1922. He further stated that Hoag was deaf at the time of the murders.

Mr. Lathrop states that he does not see what use Mr. Hoag would be as he neither saw nor heard anything and that he is a sickly man and has had several strokes.

Note: Mr. Lathrop is about as deaf as Mr. Hoag, but he understands better than Mr. Hoag.

Respectfully submitted:

G T P